

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

LISTING OF CLAIMS:

1. (original) A method for applying a coating solution on a web, comprising:

using a die which has a slot formed between a first lip and a second lip for discharging said coating solution on said web, said first lip being disposed downstream from said second lip in a feeding direction of said web;

providing a regulation member for regulating a coating width of said coating solution;

disposing said die such that a first gap between said first lip and said web may be smaller than a second gap between said second lip and said web;

setting a third gap between said regulation member and said web so as to be more than said first gap and less than said second gap.

2. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein said regulation member is formed of metal.

3. (original) A method as claimed in claim 2, wherein a surface of said regulation member that contacts to said coating solution is coated with a polymer.

4. (original) A method as claimed in claim 3, wherein said polymer is fluoride resin.

5. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein the position of said regulation member is adjusted with a position adjust device.

6. (original) A method as claimed in claim 5, wherein a length $L1$ of said first lip in the feeding direction satisfies a condition $30\mu m \leq L1 \leq 100\mu m$.

7. (original) A method as claimed in claim 1, wherein a thickness of a wet coating of said coating solution on said web is less than $20\mu m$.

8. (new) The method of claim 1, wherein the regulation member comprises first and second regulation plates arranged at respective lateral ends of the slot, each said regulation plate being disposed within the slot, between facing surfaces of the first and second lips.

9. (new) The method of claim 8, further comprising a step of providing a position adjustment device constructed and arranged to allow control of a position of each of the regulation plates.

10. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the position adjustment device is constructed to allow positioning of the regulation plates to selectively increase or decrease a distance between the respective regulation plates.

11. (new) The method of claim 9, wherein the position adjustment device is constructed to allow positioning of the regulation plates to selectively increase or decrease a distance between the web and the regulation plates.

12. (new) The method of claim 10, wherein the position adjustment device is constructed to allow positioning of the regulation plates to selectively increase or decrease a distance between the web and the regulation plates.

13. (new) The method of claim 1, further comprising a step of applying the coating solution through the slot onto a surface of the web.